

Sherburn Rural
District Council.

Annual Report



Of the Sanitary Condition
of the District for the
——— Year 1913 ———

BY

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L.R.C.P. & S. Edin.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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SHERBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sherburn Rural
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my report for 1913 on the health of your district. I am afraid the pleasure on your side will be of a mixed character, since although you may be sincerely congratulated on part of it, there are one or two matters which will provide you with food for very serious reflection. The death-rate is very high for your district, but it is to some extent capable of explanation. The birth-rate and infantile death-rate are respectively considerably above and below the average for England and Wales.

Geology.

The district has an area of 21,078 acres, and runs longitudinally East and West. It is 12 miles in length and about 4 miles across at its broadest part. It divides itself naturally into two parts—North and South. The former lies low, and the soil is mostly sandy in character, though certain parts near the river are very peaty and boggy. In earlier ages it is supposed to have formed part of a marine lake. On the southern side you have the commencement of the Yorkshire Wolds, which here rise to the height of about 600 feet. The formation is chalk, with a thin covering of light soil. There is an abundance of good water to be obtained from these hills.

Population.

The natural increase during the year 1913 was 36, there being 74 births and 38 deaths. The average rural exodus for the twenty years ending 1911 is 2 per year. This makes the nett increase for the year into 34. I therefore estimate the population up to the middle of the year to be as follows:—
 $2,272 + 34 = 2,306.$

Birth-rate.

The number of births registered in your district during the past year was 74. Of this number 38 were males and 36 females. This gives a birth-rate of 32·09, being an increase of 14 per 1,000 living over the preceding year. As you will see by the following table it is 10 more than the average for rural England and Wales.

Birth-rate per 1,000 living.

Rural England and Wales	..	..	22 2
Sherburn district	..	..	32·09

Out of the 74 births. 8 were illegitimate, giving a rate of 108 per 1,000 born.

Mortality.

There were 38 deaths registered in your district during the year under consideration, as against 23 in the preceding year. Of this number 18 were males and 20 were females. From these figures we get a crude death-rate of 16·4, and a corrected one of 15·5 for all deaths occurring in your district.

Death-rate per 1,000 living.

		Crude.		Standardized.
England and Wales	..	13·7	..	13·4
Rural England and Wales		13·1	..	12·1
Sherburn district	..	16·4	..	15·5

This death-rate is much larger than any we have had for some years, but if we analyse it there does not seem to be any serious cause for alarm. There were 2 deaths from Phthisis (a decrease of 1 from last year), and these were the only deaths from any notifiable infectious disease. There were again 3 deaths from Pneumonia. Bronchitis was the cause of death in 2 cases. Heart Disease in 5 cases, and 4 victims were claimed by Cancer (an increase of 3.) Cerebral Hæmorrhage accounted for 5, and there were 2 violent deaths. There was a large increase of deaths in old people, of whom 13 died aged 70 years and upwards. Their combined ages totalled 1,024 years, being an average of nearly 79 years each. Detailed causes of and age at death will be found in Table III. appended to this report. I now give a table of death-rates from the more important diseases and compare them with figures for the previous year:—

Death-rate per 1,000 living.

Disease.	No. of deaths.		Rate.	
	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913.
Pneumonia ..	3	3	1·3	1·3
Bronchitis ..	—	2	—	·8
Heart Disease	3	5	1·3	2·1
Cancer ..	1	4	·4	1·7
Phthisis ..	3	2	1·3	·8

Infantile Death-rate.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year in the district was 3, giving a death-rate of 40·5 per 1,000 born. This is considerably less than half the average rate for Rural England and Wales.

Infantile death-rate per 1,000 born.

Rural England and Wales	96·
Sherburn district	40·5

Infectious Diseases.

There were 20 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, viz.:—Scarlet Fever, 15; Phthisis, 4; Diphtheria, 1. Of these, 2 cases of Phthisis terminated fatally. The rate of incidence was 8·6 per 1,000 living.

House Inspection.

Seventy-five houses were inspected and reported upon by your Sanitary Inspector. A detailed statement of his work during the year will be found attached hereto. Towards the end of the year, in company with the County Medical Officer of Health, I made a tour of inspection in your district. In many cases we found grossly insanitary conditions and overcrowding of a serious nature, which conditions, if not remedied, are bound to affect adversely the health of your district. Owing to reasons known to you I have been unable as yet to present you with a detailed report on these matters, but trust to be able to do so in the near future. I may say that several of the owners have been approached and have readily agreed to make the necessary alterations. In some cases I believe this has already been done. I trust that the remainder will be equally reasonable.

Scavenging.

The emptying of ash-pits and privies is done in a very slipshod manner, and the condition of many of these is a distinct menace to the public health. I would urge upon your notice the need for some system of scavenging being inaugurated.

Dairies and Cow-sheds.

The supervision of these buildings has been carried out as in previous years. The conditions are fairly satisfactory, but still far from ideal.

Slaughter-houses.

There are no public slaughter-houses in the district. The private ones, 3 in number, are well looked after and kept clean.

Workshops.

The 3 workshops on the Register have been kept under observation, and are in a very satisfactory condition.

Water Supply.

The year has been an unusually dry one, and although no definite complaint has been made, I have heard rumours of an unsatisfactory supply at the pumps.

In conclusion I would ask you to cultivate a broad-minded and altruistic spirit with regard to sanitation in your district, if you would retain the better class of labourers in your villages. The knell of the old conditions of cottage life in rural districts has been sounded, and it is your duty by unselfish and unwearied effort to so improve these conditions that the worth of the agricultural labourer as a national asset shall be increased immeasurably. By a wise use of the powers entrusted to you we shall breed, year by year, a stronger and more vigorous race, and so enable this England of ours to maintain her proud position in the van of the nations.

Thanking you for your courteous consideration during the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD T. HOLLINGS.

Roseville, Sherburn,

March, 1914.

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1913 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Deaths of Non- Residents registered in the District.	Deaths of Residents not registered in the District.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District.					
		Uncorrected Number.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.			Under 1 Year of Age.			At all Ages.		
									Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.		
1908	2244	60	60	26.7	25	11.1	..	..	7	116.6	25	11.1
1909	2261	59	59	26.0	32	14.1	..	2	7	118.6	34	15.0		
1910	2299	69	69	30.0	21	9.1	..	4	6	86.9	25	10.8		
1911	2254	54	54	24.4	21	9.3	..	2	2	36.3	23	10.2		
1912	2272	43	43	18.9	23	10.1	..	..	4	93.0	23	10.1
1913	2306	74	74	32.0	38	16.4	..	3	3	40.5	41	17.7		

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 21,078.

Census, 1911:--Total population at all ages, 2,254; Number of inhabited houses, 488;
Average number of persons per house, 4.6.

TABLE II.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.							
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	15	..	3	11	1	..	..	..
Typhus Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	..	..	..	1	..	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	20	..	4	11	2	..	2	1

Isolation Hospital ... None.

Sanatoria ... None.

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non- Residents" in Institution in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All Causes { Certified	38	3	3	1	...	2	4	9	16	...
{ Uncertified ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tubercu- losis)	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Tuberculosis Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...
Cancer, malignant disease	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...
Bronchitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other diseases of respiratory organs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, including Prema- ture Birth ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide... ..	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Suicide ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases... ..	14	2	1	...	...	...	...	3	8	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	38	3	3	1	...	2	4	9	16	..

TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.

NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Cause of Death.			Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	{ Certified	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	3
	{ Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Small-pox ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Chicken-pox .. ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Measles .. ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Scarlet Fever ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Whooping Cough ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Diphtheria and Croup ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Erysipelas ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
{ Convulsions ... ..			...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Laryngitis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Bronchitis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Diarrhœa ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteritis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Gastritis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Syphilis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Rickets ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Suffocation, overlying ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Injury at birth .. ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Atelectasis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Congenital Malformations ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Premature Birth ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
{ Other Causes ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	3

Nett Births in the year { legitimate ... 66
 { illegitimate ... 8

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants ... 3
 { illegitimate infants... 0

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

ARTICLE V.—The Medical Officer of Health shall include in his Annual Report information and particulars in tabular form in regard to:—

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909.	75
Number of dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation ...	—
Number of dwelling-houses made fit for habitation without formal representation	—
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	—
Number of Closing Orders made	—
Number of dwelling-houses in which the defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	20
Number of dwelling-houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation ...	—
Number of houses voluntarily closed by owners	—
Number of houses voluntarily demolished by owners	—

General character of the defects found to exist—

Dampness, bad ventilation, deficient light, and unspouted cottages.

Please give, where possible, the rents of the cottages reported as unfit for human habitation.

Any other information and particulars of the work of Inspection under Section 17—

I have inspected about 75 houses, and have made representations to owners in many cases, which have been complied with, particularly in spouting unspouted cottages.

DETAILS OF SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT DURING 1913.

Dwellings inspected	...	...	...	...	75
„ disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease...	...	...	...	...	8
„ disinfected after cases of Phthisis ...	...	...	...	...	—
„ condemned as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	—
„ found overcrowded	...	...	...	...	2
Dwellinghouse yards paved	...	...	...	...	—
New houses built	...	...	...	...	1
Number of notices served (formal and informal)	...	...	...	...	13
„ complied with	...	...	...	...	7
Number of nuisances found	...	...	...	...	9
„ abated	...	...	...	...	5
Number of defective privies and ashpits remedied...	...	...	...	...	5
New ashpits made	...	...	...	...	—
Privies converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	—
„ pail closets	...	...	...	...	3
Ashpits covered	...	...	...	...	—
New W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	—
Number of defective house drains found	...	...	...	...	4
„ drains trapped or disconnected	...	...	...	...	4
„ new drains laid	...	...	...	...	2
„ drains relaid	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ better ventilated	...	...	...	...	—
„ cesspools removed	...	...	...	...	—
New cesspools made	...	...	...	...	—
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	—
Water Supplies—					
Houses newly supplied from water mains	...	...	...	...	1
New wells made	...	...	...	...	—
New bore wells made	...	...	...	...	—
Wells closed, water unsafe	...	...	...	...	—
Samples of water sent for examination	...	...	...	...	—
Water certificates granted for new houses in Rural Districts	...	...	...	...	—
Dairies and Cowsheds—					
Number on register	...	...	...	...	33
Number of cows	...	...	...	...	—
Visits to Cowsheds — May and October and other period during the year	...	...	...	...	—
Visits to dairies	...	...	...	...	—
Defects found—minor defects found, undrained and badly paved	...	...	...	...	—
„ remedied	...	...	...	...	—
Slaughter Houses—					
Number on register (not registered, 4)	...	...	...	...	—
Visits to	...	...	...	...	—
Common Lodging Houses—					
Number on register	...	...	...	...	—
Visits to	...	...	...	...	—
Canal Boats inspected	...	...	...	...	—

